Bobby Scott Trio - Great Scott (1954)



Great Scott 01. Pee Wee 02. Phil's Mood 03. Moonbeaux 04. Tenderly 05. Ode To Monk 06. Polka Dots And Moonbeams 07. Gone With The Wind 08. Lullaby Of Birdland Bobby Scott

9. Just One of Those Things 10. But Beautiful 11. Once in a While 12. I Married an Angel Double Bass – Whitey Mitchell Drums – Bill Bradley, Jr. Piano – Bobby Scott Recorded in NYC, September 21, 1954.

Bobby Scott was a teenage prodigy who made the first recordings on this album when he was only 17 years old. The album Great Scott was his debut and showed how he was already a very complete pianist. Yet you may not have heard of him, even though you'll probably know his compositions A Taste of Honey and He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother.

Despite his early promise as a pianist, playing with such people as Louis Prima and Gene Krupa, Bobby tended to wander down several other career paths: singing, arranging and teaching. But he also performed on the clarinet, accordion, cello and bass, so you might say that he diversified his talents too widely to establish himself firmly in people's minds as a pianist.

These tracks - from 1954 and 1955 - display his enviable technique and a style comparable to Bud Powell in its feverish swing and concentration on the right hand. This album also illustrates his talents as a composer. He wrote half the tunes on the first LP, among which are the bluesy Phil's Mood and the Thelonious-like Ode to Monk. The opening chords of Polka Dots and Moonbeams reveal a questing spirit, and his version of Lullaby of Birdland is like a Jacques Loussier reworking of Bach. Bobby's accompanists on this LP had notable relations: Whitey Mitchell being the brother of bassist Red Mitchell, and Will Bradley Jr. being the son of a famous trombonist-cum-bandleader.

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The Second disc, Bobby Scott, only has four tracks on it but they hint at the variety that Bobby could get into his playing. He even does an Erroll Garner on Once in a While, and there are several George Shearing-like locked-hands episodes. --- Tony Augarde, musicweb-international.com

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